



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/666,964	09/21/2000	William C. Dalrymple	7000-026	9275
27820	7590	06/15/2005	EXAMINER	
WITHROW & TERRANOVA, P.L.L.C.			SHEW, JOHN	
P.O. BOX 1287			ART UNIT	
CARY, NC 27512			PAPER NUMBER	

2664

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/666,964

Applicant(s)

DALRYMPLE ET AL.

Examiner

John L. Shew

Art Unit

2664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/23/2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 and 39-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 September 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 49, 51, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by McNerney et al.

Claim 1, McNerney teaches a method comprising monitoring for an occurrence of a virtual event generated by an interaction with a first virtual entity (FIG. 4) referenced by the interaction with icon "Place a New Call" entity which generates a virtual event of placing a call to a select party, within a virtual reality environment (Abstract lines 1-8) referenced by the virtual reality mixed media meeting room, selecting a communications

function based at least in part on conditional data (FIG. 1, FIG. 4) referenced by the availability and accessibility of communications functions such as video being dependent upon the end user having the required associated equipment such as a camera 32, and initiating the communications function that has been associated with the virtual event upon occurrence of the virtual event (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of the virtual reality icon "Place a New Call" to initiate the event of placing a telephone call, wherein the communications function provides for communication with a real world entity associated with the first virtual entity such that the communications function occurs outside the virtual reality environment (FIG. 1) referenced by placement of a telephone call from the Virtual Meeting Service Complex through the PSTN to a telephone 16.

Claim 2, McNerney teaches wherein the virtual event is generated by a second virtual entity interacting with the first virtual entity within the virtual reality environment (FIG. 4, column 2 lines 43-51) referenced by the video rendition of the conference participants seated around the virtual reality conference table with blackboard 606 for interactive communications, and initiating the communications function comprises initiating a communication between real world entities associated with the first and second virtual entities upon occurrence of the virtual event (FIG. 6, column 6 lines 66-67, column 7 lines 1-4) referenced by the virtual reality conferees communicating through a graphical user interface 601 initiate real world communications such as application transfer for sharing among the terminal devices associated with the other conferees.

Claim 3, McNerney teaches wherein the virtual event comprises an interaction between a second virtual entity and the first virtual entity within the virtual reality environment (FIG. 3, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-3) referenced by interaction of the icons above the chairs in the virtual reality conference room, and further wherein initiating the communications function comprises initiating a telephony session between real world entities associated with the first and second virtual entities (FIG. 1, FIG. 4) referenced by the "Place a New Call" icon to establish contact between group members via the real world PSTN ATM or FR networks.

Claim 4, McNerney teaches wherein initiating the telephony session comprises initiating telecommunications between a first telecommunications device associated with the first virtual entity and a second telecommunications device associated with the second virtual entity (FIG. 1, FIG. 4) referenced by the placing a new call to icon Joe Smith at first telecommunications device number 3333 and placing a new call to icon Rachel Ruiz at second telecommunications device number 2222.

Claim 5, McNerney teaches wherein the first virtual entity is associated with a first telecommunications device (FIG. 4, column 5 lines 64-67, column 6 lines 1-2) referenced by the conferencee participant in each chair of the virtual reality conference room which is associated to the icon "Place a New Call" to Joe Smith with the associated first telecommunication device number 3333, and further wherein initiating

the communications function comprises initiating a telecommunications call to the first telecommunications device (FIG. 1, column 4 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of icon Joe Smith to initiate a telephone call to number 3333.

Claim 6, McNerney teaches wherein the virtual event is generated by an interaction between a second virtual entity and the first virtual entity within the virtual reality environment (FIG. 3, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-3) referenced by interaction of the icons above the chairs in the virtual reality conference room, and further wherein initiating the communications function comprises initiating an email message from a computer system associated with the second virtual entity to a computer system associated with the first virtual entity (FIG. 1, FIG. 4, column 7 lines 23-27) referenced by the placement of text information into Mailbox 604 by the second computer system for retrieval from the Mailbox by the first computer system.

Claim 7, McNerney teaches wherein the virtual event is generated by an interaction between a second virtual entity and the first virtual entity within the virtual reality environment (FIG. 3, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-3) referenced by interaction of the icons above the chairs in the virtual reality conference room, and further wherein initiating the communications function comprises initiating an electronic file transfer between a computer system associated with the second virtual entity and a computer system associated with the first virtual entity (FIG. 1, FIG. 4, column 7 lines 23-27) referenced by the placement of electronic files into File Drawers 603 by second the

second computer system for retrieval from the File Drawers 603 by the first computer system.

Claim 8, McNerney teaches wherein the virtual event is generated by an interaction between a second virtual entity and the first virtual entity within the virtual reality environment (FIG. 3, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-3) referenced by interaction of the icons above the chairs in the virtual reality conference room, and further wherein initiating the communications function comprises pushing a representation of a graphical environment at a computer system associated with the second virtual entity to a computer system associated with the first virtual entity (FIG. 1, FIG. 4, column 7 lines 23-27) referenced by the second computer system activating the Video Tape Recorder 605 which pushes the graphical information to the virtual reality environment conference room of the first computer system.

Claim 9, McNerney teaches defining a plurality of events that can be generated by a plurality of different interactions between the first and second virtual entities (FIG. 4) referenced by the icons for File Drawers 603 Mailbox 604 Video Tape Player 605 and Blackboard 606, associating respective ones of the plurality of events with respective ones of a plurality of communication functions (FIG. 4) referenced by respective events of communication functions of file transfer email video transfer and graphics, identifying a specific one of the plurality of events upon occurrence of one of the plurality of events (FIG. 4) referenced by the identification through different icons for each event, selecting

a corresponding one of the plurality of communication functions from among the plurality of communication functions based on the specific one of the plurality of events (column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the selection using point and click of the icon for the associated communication function, and initiating the corresponding one of the plurality of communication functions (FIG. 4) referenced by initiation of associated communication functions of file transfer, email, video transfer and graphics.

Claim 15, McNerney teaches wherein initiating the communications function comprises one in a group of actions consisting of initiating a telephony session (FIG. 4) referenced by the icon "Place a New Call", initiating a computer applications (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 39-55) referenced by the File Drawers 603 to send files and applications, initiating an email transaction (FIG. 4, column 7 lines 23-27) referenced by the placement of text information into Mailbox 604, initiating an electronic file transfer (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 39-55) referenced by the File Drawers 603 to send files and applications, initiating an electronic conference (FIG. 4) referenced by the virtual reality conference room, initiating an electronic data sharing session (FIG. 4) referenced by the Video Tape Player 605 to share video information, and initiating a virtual environment working session (FIG. 4, column 5 lines 22-32) referenced by the virtual reality conference room with mix media conference services.

Claim 49, McNerney teaches wherein monitoring for an occurrence of a virtual event generated by an interaction with a first virtual entity (FIG. 4, column 4 lines 29-44)



referenced by the point and click of an icon within the virtual reality conference room, comprises monitoring for the occurrence of the virtual event generated by the interaction with the first virtual entity selected from the group consisting of a virtual object and a virtual location (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 48-58) referenced by the drag and drop capability to move an application to a virtual table location.

Claim 51, McNerney teaches wherein selecting a communications function comprises from the group consisting of email (FIG. 4, column 7 lines 23-27) referenced by the placement of text information into Mailbox 604, and file transfer (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 39-55) referenced by the File Drawers 603 to send files and applications.

Claim 16, McNerney teaches a method comprising representing a real world entity as at least one virtual entity within a virtual environment (FIG. 4) referenced by real world telephone device associated to Joe Smith at number 3333 represented as an icon in the virtual reality conference room, associating at least one communications function relevant to the real world entity with a defined virtual event that can be generated by interacting with the at least one virtual entity (FIG. 4) referenced by "Place a New Call" to the real world telephone by a point and click of the icon Joe Smith 3333, and selecting the at least one communications function based at least in part on conditional data such that the at least one communications function occurs outside the virtual environment (FIG. 1, FIG. 4) referenced by conditional data being dependent on the availability of the telephone device at the destination location.

Claim 17, McNerney teaches a method comprising monitoring for an occurrence of the defined virtual event (FIG. 4) referenced by monitoring for the interaction with icon "Place a New Call" entity which generates a virtual event of placing a call to a select party, and initiating the at least one communications function upon the occurrence of the defined virtual event (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of the virtual reality icon "Place a New Call" to initial the event of placing a telephone call.

Claim 18, McNerney teaches wherein the defined virtual event is generated by an interaction between the at least one virtual entity and an additional virtual entity associated with another real world entity (FIG. 4, column 2 lines 43-51) referenced by the video rendition of the conference participants seated around the virtual reality conference table with blackboard 606 for interactive communications, and initiating the at least one communications function comprises initiating a communication between the real world entity associated with the at least one virtual entity and the real world entity associated with the additional virtual entity upon the occurrence of the defined virtual event (FIG. 4) referenced by point and click on icon first virtual entity "Place a New Call" to Joe Smith 3333 to initiate a real world telephone call to the destination party for conferencing to the virtual reality conference room.

Claim 22, McNerney teaches associating respective ones of a plurality of communications functions relevant to the real world entity with corresponding ones of a

plurality of defined virtual events that can be generated by different interactions with the at least one virtual entity (FIG. 4, FIG. 6) referenced by the communications functions File Drawer 603 Mail Box 604 VCR 605 and Blackboard 606 which correspond to a plurality of defined virtual events generated by interactions with the virtual entity, selecting a corresponding one of the plurality of communications functions upon occurrence of a given one of the plurality of defined virtual events (FIG. 4, (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of the virtual reality icons "Place a New Call" File Drawer 603 Mail Box 604 VCR 605 and Blackboard 606, and initiating the corresponding one of the plurality of communications functions (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by generating a telephone call, file transfer, email, video transfer and graphical transfer respectively.

Claim 23, McNerney teaches wherein representing a real world entity as at least one virtual entity within a virtual environment (FIG. 4, column 5 lines 64-67, column 6 lines 1-2) referenced by the conference participant in each chair of the virtual reality conference room, comprises representing the real world entity with a plurality of virtual entities (FIG. 4) referenced by icon functions available to each real world entity including File Drawer 603 Mailbox 604 Video Tape Player 605 and Blackboard 606, and further wherein associating at least one communications function relevant to the real world entity with a defined virtual event that can be generated by interacting with the at least one virtual entity comprises associating respective ones of a plurality of communications functions with respective ones of the plurality of virtual entities (FIG. 4, column 6 lines

29-39) referenced by the point and click of the virtual reality icons "Place a New Call" File Drawer 603 Mail Box 604 VCR 605 and Blackboard 606, and initiating the corresponding one of the plurality of communications functions.

Claim 24, McNerney teaches a method comprising associating a virtual entity in a virtual reality environment with a person (FIG. 3, FIG. 4, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the virtual reality conference room with icons above the chairs to indicate the identity of the participant, linking a virtual event defined for the virtual entity with a desired communications function relevant to the person based at least in part on conditional data (FIG. 4) referenced by the icon "Place a New Call" for the destination party with the conditional data being if the destination party being accessible for the call as shown in the toolbar with the telephone crossed out, monitoring for an occurrence of the virtual event (column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the virtual reality system monitoring for a point and click action to initiate the icon event, monitor conditions to determine the conditional data (column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the system monitoring the type of media the participants are capable of communicating such as having accessible telephone and video equipment, and initiating the desired communications function upon occurrence of the virtual event and the conditional data such that the desired communications function occurs outside the virtual reality environment (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click action to initiate placing a telephone call to the destination party.

Claim 42, McNerney teaches a virtual reality interface system (FIG. 2) referenced by the Virtual Meeting Services Complex 28, comprising a first communications interface adapted to receive an event notification from a virtual reality system (FIG. 2, FIG. 4) referenced by the VMS Server 110 receiving input from the virtual reality conference room, said event notification associated with conditional data (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of the icon for the communications function wherein the function is initiated only upon availability of the function to the associated destination party, a processing system adapted to determine a desired communications function based on the event notification and the conditional data (FIG. 2) referenced by the VMS Server processing the desire to place a new call based on a point and click of the "Place a New Call" icon and the condition that a telephone is available at the destination party, and a second communications interface adapted to provide initiating information sufficient to initiate the desired communications function such that the desired communications function occurs outside the virtual reality system (FIG. 2) referenced by communications servers 112 114 and 116 to initiate the appropriated desired communications functions based the point and click of the associated icon thereby placing the respective call to the associated external networks POTS ISDN ATM.

Claim 43, McNerney teaches the first communications interface comprises a network communication interface (FIG. 2) referenced by the VMS Server 110 interfacing to bridges 86 90 and 92 to other communication networks, adapted to transfer information

between a virtual reality system server and said virtual reality interface system (FIG. 4) referenced by the virtual reality conference room presented by the VMS Server to the other networks.

Claim 44, McNerney teaches wherein said second communications interface comprises a network communications interface (FIG. 2) referenced by the VMS Audio Server 114 connecting via bridges 86 90 92 to other networks, adapted to transfer the information sufficient to initiate the desired communications function between said virtual reality interface system and at least one networked computer system associated with the desired communications function (FIG. 2, FIG. 4) referenced by the virtual reality conference room interfacing to the VMS Audio Server processing the telephone call via the POTS Bridge 78 to the destination party.

Claim 45, McNerney teaches wherein said virtual reality interface system hosts virtual reality environment software and further wherein said first communications interface comprises a software interface with the virtual reality environment software (FIG. 2, column 4 lines 7-51) referenced by the VMS Server 110 accessing the virtual meeting services 28 to provide a virtual reality conference room connection to the outside network.

Claim 46, McNerney teaches wherein the desired communications function is a computer telephony function (FIG. 4) referenced by the "Place a New Call" icon, and

further wherein said second communications interface is adapted to communicate with a computer telephony system (FIG. 2) referenced by the VMS Audio Server 114 communicated between the computer VMS Sever 110 and the telephony network via POTS bridge 78.

Claim 47, McNerney teaches a system comprising means for monitoring for an occurrence of a virtual event generated by an interaction between a first virtual entity and a second virtual entity within a virtual reality environment (FIG. 4, column 4 lines 29-44) referenced by the point and click of an icon within the virtual reality conference room to obtain interaction with the virtual reality conferencees, means for selecting a communications function based at least in part on conditional data (FIG. 4 column 4 lines 29-44) referenced by the point and click selection of "Place a New Call" icon based on condition of telephone availability as shown in toolbar by the icon of a telephone crossed out, and means for initiating the communications function that has been associated with the virtual event involving the first virtual entity upon occurrence of the virtual event (FIG. 4) referenced by the point and click of "Place a New Call" icon with the associated destination party number, wherein the communications function provides for communications with a real world entity associated with one of the first and second virtual entities such that the communications function occurs outside the virtual reality environment (FIG. 4) referenced by the point and click of "Place a New Call" icon with the associated destination party number to place a real world call to the destination party to conference with the second virtual party entity in the conference room.

Claim 48, McNerney teaches said means for monitoring for the occurrence of the virtual event monitors for the occurrence of the virtual event generated by an interaction between the first virtual entity and a second virtual entity (FIG. 4, column 2 lines 43-51) referenced by the video rendition of the conference participants seated around the virtual reality conference table with blackboard 606 for interactive communications, and said means for initiating the communications function initiates the communication between real world entities associated with the first and second virtual entities upon occurrence of the virtual event (FIG. 1, FIG. 4) referenced by the point and click of the icon for placing a new call to icon Joe Smith at first telecommunications device number 3333 and placing a new call to icon Rachel Ruiz at second telecommunications device number 2222.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.



Claims 10, 52, 11, 12, 13, 53, 14, 50, 19, 20, 21, 25 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNerney as applied to claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 49, 51, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48 above, in view of Swartz (Patent number 6445694).

Claim 10, McNerney teaches a virtual reality mixed media meeting room with events associated to communication functions. He does not teach more than one communications functions associated with a virtual event.

Swartz teaches defining at least one additional communications function associated with the event (Fig. 2, Fig. 7, column 11 lines 22-29) referenced by the additional communications function of "Follow Me" to the "place a call" event, defining a criteria for determining whether to initiate the communications function or the at least one additional communications function (Fig. 7) referenced by the criteria of date and time for which to forward the call, evaluating the criteria upon occurrence of the event (Fig. 7) referenced by determination of the current date and time in comparison to the forwarding data and time, initiating one of the communications function and the at least one additional communications function based on the evaluation of the criteria (Fig. 7) referenced by the placement of the call to the destination number or the forwarding number based on the date and time.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the

virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 52, McNerney teaches a virtual reality mixed media meeting room with events associated to communication functions and accessibility of the communication functions. He does not teach criteria related to conditional data of accessibility.

Swartz teaches wherein the criteria relates to the conditional data (Fig. 7) referenced by the inaccessibility of a telephone at certain dates and times can be resolved by a "Follow Me" criteria to provide accessible communications functions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 11, McNerney teaches a virtual reality mixed media meeting room with events associated to communication functions. He does not teach a criteria based on a known location of a user.

Swartz teaches wherein the criteria is a known location of a user associated with the first entity. (Fig. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling option wherein each follow me telephone number represents a known station location at which the first entity user will be at select dates and times.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 12, McNerney teaches a virtual reality mixed media meeting room with events associated to communication functions. He does not teach a criteria based on a known location of a user.

Swartz teaches wherein the event is generated by an interaction between a second entity and the first entity (Fig. 1, column 1 lines 66-67, column 2 lines 1-7) referenced by telephone service between second entity user device 37 and first entity user device 38, and further wherein the criteria is a known location of a user associated with the second entity (Fig. 1, Fig. 7) referenced by the follow me data and time for a known location telephone device number.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 13, McNerney teaches a virtual reality mixed media meeting room with events associated to communication functions. He does not teach a criteria based on a time of day.

Swartz teaches wherein the criteria is a time of day (Fig. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling option wherein each follow me telephone number represents a known station location at which the first entity user will be at select dates and times.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 53, McNerney teaches wherein the criteria does not relate to the conditional data (FIG. 4) referenced by "Place a New Call" without determination of the availability or accessibility of the destination telephonic device.

Claim 14, McNerney teaches wherein the virtual event is generated by an interaction between a second virtual entity and the first virtual entity within the virtual reality environment (FIG. 3, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-3) referenced by interaction of the icons above the chairs in the virtual reality conference room, and further comprising initiating a telephony session between a first user associated with the first virtual entity and a second user associated with the second virtual entity using a first contact number for the first user during a first period of time (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of the virtual reality icon "Place a New Call" to Joe Smith 3333 to initiate the event of placing a telephone call to establish a telephony session between first user Joe Smith and second user Rachel Ruiz in the virtual

conference room for a first period of time. McNerney does not teach initiating a telephony session using a second contact number for a second period of time.

Swartz teaches initiating a telephony session between the first user associated with the first entity and the second user associated with the second entity using a second contact number for the first user during a second period of time (Fig. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling option wherein the first user establishes a telephone number to dial at select dates and times wherein the select dates and times represent the second period or time.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 50, McNerney teaches selecting a communications function based at least in part on conditional data (FIG. 1, FIG. 4) referenced by the availability and accessibility of communications functions such as video being dependent upon the end user having the required associated equipment such as a camera 32. He does not teach conditional data based on system time and date.

Swartz teaches conditional data comprises selecting a communications function based on conditional data selected from the group consisting of system time (FIG. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" option with a Time entry, system date (FIG. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" option with a Date entry, real world location of a first real world entity

associated with the first entity (FIG. 7, FIG. 1) referenced by the telephone number which has a fixed real world location for the telephone device, and type of first entity with which the interaction occurs (FIG. 8) referenced by the forwarding option for voice to email representing a different type of data transmission.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 19, McNerney teaches wherein associating at least one communications function relevant to the real world entity with a defined virtual event that can be generated by interacting with the at least one virtual entity (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of the virtual reality icon "Place a New Call" to initial the event of placing a telephone call, comprises associating a plurality of communications functions relevant to the real world entity with the defined virtual event (FIG. 4, FIG. 6) referenced by a plurality of possible communication functions based on virtual entity icons file drawer 603 mail box 604 VCR 605 and Blackboard 606. McNerney does not teach defining a criteria related to conditional data for selecting a preferred communications function.

Swartz teaches defining at least one criteria said at least one criteria related to the conditional data (Fig. 7, Fig. 8) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling option criteria to alleviate the conditional data of terminal accessibility, for selecting a preferred

communications function from the plurality of communications functions (Fig. 8) referenced by the forwarding option of alternate telephone number or email.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 20, McNerney teaches a virtual reality mixed media meeting room with events associated to communication functions and accessibility of the communication functions. He does not teach criteria upon occurrence of the defined virtual event to determine the preferred communications function.

Swartz teaches evaluating the at least one criteria upon occurrence of the defined event to determine the preferred communications function (Fig. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling option which uses a time and date criteria to determine the preferred telephone number to dial, and initiating the preferred communication function (Fig. 7) referenced by dialing the specified telephone number to establish a communications session.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 21, McNerney teaches wherein initiating the at least one communications functions comprises initiating at least one in a group of actions consisting of initiating a telephony session (FIG. 4) referenced by the icon "Place a New Call", initiating a computer application (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 39-55) referenced by the File Drawers 603 to send files and applications, initiating an email transmission (FIG. 4, column 7 lines 23-27) referenced by the placement of text information into Mailbox 604, initiating an electronic conference (FIG. 4) referenced by the virtual reality conference room, initiating an electronic data sharing session (FIG. 4) referenced by the Video Tape Player 605 to share video information, and initiating a virtual environment working session (FIG. 4, column 5 lines 22-32) referenced by the virtual reality conference room with mix media conference services.

Claim 25, McNerney teaches linking the virtual event defined for the virtual entity with a plurality of communications functions (FIG. 6) referenced by the plurality of communication functions available in the virtual reality conference room including File Drawer 603 Mailbox 604 VCR 605 and Blackboard 606.

He does not teach defining a criteria related to the conditional data.

Swartz teaches defining at least one criteria related to the conditional data for selecting a preferred one of the plurality of communications functions at a given time (Fig. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling option wherein the criteria definition is the date and time, evaluating the at least one criteria upon occurrence of the event to determine the preferred one of the plurality of communications functions (Fig. 7) referenced by the



preferred telephone number to dial based on the determination of the date and time criteria, and initiating the preferred one of the plurality of communications functions (Fig. 7) referenced by the placement of the call to the "Forward to" preferred phone number for the associated time.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual reality meeting room of McNerney for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

3. Claims 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 39, 40, 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNerney, in view of Krishnaswamy et al. (Patent number 5999525).

Claim 26, McNerney teaches monitor for an event notification signifying an event occurring within a virtual reality environment (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of the virtual reality icon signifying the event occurring within the virtual reality conference room, monitor for a condition relating to conditional data (column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the monitor of the media each conference participant is capable of using being available and accessible, associate the

event notification with a desired communications function (FIG. 4) referenced by the "Place a New Call" icon to place a telephone call to the destination party, and initiate the desired communications function upon occurrence of the event notification and the conditional data (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of the virtual reality icon "Place a New Call" wherein the call is placed if the telephone is available and accessible at the destination party otherwise the call is not placed as indicated by the toolbar with the telephone crossed out, wherein the desired communications function provides for communications with a real world entity associated with virtual entity represented in the virtual reality environment such that the desired communications function occurs outside the virtual reality environment (FIG. 4) referenced by the placement of a telephone call from the virtual reality conference room to the real world destination part via telephone. McNerney teaches (FIG. 2) a Virtual Meeting Service Server 110 but does not teach a computer readable media.

Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable media comprising software for instructing a computer (FIG. 83, column 270 lines 24-48) referenced by the Processor 30204 reading from Main Memory 30208 comprising of computer program instructions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the computer system of Krishnaswamy to implement the virtual meeting services server of McNerney for the purpose of allowing users to transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony users.

Claim 27, McNerney teaches to monitor for the event notification include monitoring for the occurrence of the event generated by an interaction between a first virtual entity and a second virtual entity (FIG. 3, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-3) referenced by interaction of the icons above the chairs in the virtual reality conference room, and to initiate the desired communications function include initiating a communication between real world entities associated with the first and second virtual entities upon occurrence of the event notification (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the notification by point and click of the virtual reality icon "Place a New Call" to initiate the event of placing a telephone call to conference the first and second virtual entities. McNerney teaches (FIG. 2) a Virtual Meeting Service Server 110 but does not teach a computer readable media.

Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable media comprising software for instructing a computer (FIG. 83, column 270 lines 24-48) referenced by the Processor 30204 reading from Main Memory 30208 comprising of computer program instructions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the computer system of Krishnaswamy to implement the virtual meeting services server of McNerney for the purpose of allowing users to transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony users.

Claim 28, McNerney teaches to process event data received as part of the event notification (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the notification by point and click of the virtual reality icon "Place a New Call" with processing of the click to initiate the telephone call, determine information bearing on execution of the desired communications function from the event data (FIG. 4) referenced by the determination of the telephone number bearing on the desired destination party from the click of the associated icon, configure initiation information using the information bearing on the execution of the desired communications function (column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the accessing the initiation information as to the availability and accessibility of the conference participants capabilities, and initiate the desired communications function using the initiating information (FIG. 4) referenced by placement of the telephone call provided the destination party has a telephone device reachable by the virtual reality conference room. McNerney teaches (FIG. 2) a Virtual Meeting Service Server 110 but does not teach a computer readable media.

Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable media comprising software for instructing a computer (FIG. 83, column 270 lines 24-48) referenced by the Processor 30204 reading from Main Memory 30208 comprising of computer program instructions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the computer system of Krishnaswamy to implement the virtual meeting services server of McNerney for the purpose of allowing users to transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony users.

Claim 29, McNerney teaches to process the event notification to identify an occurrence of a certain event within the virtual reality environment (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the notification by point and click of a virtual reality icon, select one from a plurality of desired communications functions based on identifying the occurrence of the certain event (FIG. 4) referenced by the icons for plurality of functions File Drawers 603 Mailbox 604 Video Tape Player 605 and Blackboard 606, and initiate the one desired communications function selected from the plurality of desired communications functions (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 11-15) referenced by the point and click of the icon functions thereby initiating the associated function.

McNerney teaches (FIG. 2) a Virtual Meeting Service Server 110 but does not teach a computer readable media.

Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable media comprising software for instructing a computer (FIG. 83, column 270 lines 24-48) referenced by the Processor 30204 reading from Main Memory 30208 comprising of computer program instructions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the computer system of Krishnaswamy to implement the virtual meeting services server of McNerney for the purpose of allowing users to transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony users.

Claim 30, McNerney teaches to process the event notification to identify a specific event (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the notification by point and click of a virtual reality icon for processing, determine a specific desired communications function corresponding to the specific event (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the determination of the particular point and click icon for a specific communications function, and initiate the specific desired communications function (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of icon "Place a New Call" to initiate the desired telephone call to a destination party.

McNerney teaches (FIG. 2) a Virtual Meeting Service Server 110 but does not teach a computer readable media.

Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable media comprising software for instructing a computer (FIG. 83, column 270 lines 24-48) referenced by the Processor 30204 reading from Main Memory 30208 comprising of computer program instructions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the computer system of Krishnaswamy to implement the virtual meeting services server of McNerney for the purpose of allowing users to transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony users.

Claim 35, McNerney teaches instructing a computer system (FIG. 2) referenced by the VMS Server 110, to interface with a virtual reality environment to receive event

notifications generated by events within a virtual reality environment (FIG. 4) referenced by the virtual reality conference room which receives notifications and events of conference activities, monitor for conditions relating to conditional data (FIG. 4, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the monitor of accessibility and availability of participants reflected in the toolbar status of a telephone crossed out, associate a particular one of the event notifications and the conditional data with a particular communications function (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by a point and click of the "Place a New Call" icon conditional on the availability of the destination party indicated by the toolbar not showing the telephone crossed out, and initiate the particular communications function upon receipt of the particular one of the event notifications and the conditional data such that the particular communications function occurs outside the virtual reality environment (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by initiating the desired telephone call upon receipt of a click function on the "Place a New Call" icon and the desired telephone is accessible. McNerney teaches (FIG. 2) a Virtual Meeting Service Server 110 but does not teach a computer readable media. Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable media comprising software for instructing a computer (FIG. 83, column 270 lines 24-48) referenced by the Processor 30204 reading from Main Memory 30208 comprising of computer program instructions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the computer system of Krishnaswamy to implement the virtual meeting services server of McNerney for the purpose of allowing users to

transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony users.

Claim 39, McNevey teaches a computer system to receive configuration information from a user associated with the particular one of the event notifications (FIG. 1, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the different capabilities of the conference participants and the virtual reality conference room providing information when the function is not available to the associated participant, and configure the particular communications function based on the configuration information (FIG. 4) referenced by determination of whether to place the telephone call based on the availability information of the destination party as shown in the toolbar as a telephone crossed out.

. McNerney teaches (FIG. 2) a Virtual Meeting Service Server 110 but does not teach a computer readable media.

Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable media comprising software for instructing a computer (FIG. 83, column 270 lines 24-48) referenced by the Processor 30204 reading from Main Memory 30208 comprising of computer program instructions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the computer system of Krishnaswamy to implement the virtual meeting services server of McNerney for the purpose of allowing users to transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony users.



Claim 40, McNerney teaches the system selects one of a plurality of communications functions as the particular communications function based on a configuration value upon occurrence of the particular one of the event notifications (FIG. 4, FIG. 6, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the point and click selection of communications functions File Drawer 603 Mail Box 604 VCR 605 and Blackboard 606 wherein the configuration value of accessibility by the conference participant determines whether the communications function is able to be initiated.

. McNerney teaches (FIG. 2) a Virtual Meeting Service Server 110 but does not teach a computer readable media.

Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable media comprising software for instructing a computer (FIG. 83, column 270 lines 24-48) referenced by the Processor 30204 reading from Main Memory 30208 comprising of computer program instructions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the computer system of Krishnaswamy to implement the virtual meeting services server of McNerney for the purpose of allowing users to transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony users.

Claim 41, McNerney teaches the system to receive information determining the configuration value from a user associated with the particular one of the event

Art Unit: 2664

notifications (FIG. 4, FIG. 6, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the point and click selection of communications functions File Drawer 603 Mail Box 604 VCR 605 and Blackboard 606 wherein the configuration value of accessibility by the conference participant determines whether the communications function is able to be initiated.

. McNerney teaches (FIG. 2) a Virtual Meeting Service Server 110 but does not teach a computer readable media.

Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable media comprising software for instructing a computer (FIG. 83, column 270 lines 24-48) referenced by the Processor 30204 reading from Main Memory 30208 comprising of computer program instructions.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the computer system of Krishnaswamy to implement the virtual meeting services server of McNerney for the purpose of allowing users to transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony users.

4. Claims 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McNerney and Krishnaswamy as applied to claims 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 35, 39, 40, 41 above, and further in view of Swartz.

Claim 31, Krishnaswamy teaches a computer readable medium instructing a computer (FIG. 83) referenced by Processor 30204 and Main Memory 30208. McNervy teaches to monitor for a condition relating to conditional data (column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the monitor of the media each conference participant is capable of using being available and accessible, comprises determining a status condition associated with the desired communications function upon receipt of the event notification (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the notification by point and click of a virtual reality icon to "Place a New Call" for initiating a desired telephone call wherein the determination is made as to the telephone availability icon. Krishnaswamy and McNerney do not teach determining a status condition and modification of the communications function based on the status condition.

Swartz teaches determining a status condition relating to conditional data (Fig. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling option to provide telephone accessibility where the status data is the telephone availability based on the date and time, modifying the desired communications function based on the status condition (Fig. 7) referenced by the modification of the destination telephone number to the "Forward to" telephone number based on the status.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual meeting services computer system of McNerney and Krishnaswamy for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 32, Krishnaswamy and McNevey teach a VMS computer system. They do not teach determining a status condition comprises determining a system time.

Swartz teaches determining the status condition comprises determining a system time (Fig. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling option using the date and time to determine the number to call.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual meeting services computer system of McNerney and Krishnaswamy for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 33, Krishnaswamy and McNevey teach a VMS computer system. They do not teach modifying the communications function based on status condition for different times.

Swartz teaches to modify the desired communications function based on the status condition comprises initiating the desired communications function using different initiation information for different times (Fig. 7) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling

option wherein the status condition is determined based on various dates and times with different "Forward to" telephone number for each date and time.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual meeting services computer system of McNerney and Krishnaswamy for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 34, Krishnaswamy and McNevey teach a VMS computer system. They do not teach modifying the communications function on a number of communications systems based on status condition for different times.

Swartz teaches to modify the desired communications function based on the status condition comprises initiating the desired communications function on a different one of a number of associated communications systems at different times (Fig. 7, Fig. 8) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling option wherein the status condition is determined based on various dates and times with different "Forward to" telephone number for each date and time and forwarding options including email, voicemail and FAX.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual meeting services computer system of McNerney and Krishnaswamy for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 36, McNerney teaches instructing a computer system (FIG. 2) referenced by the VMS Server 110, to associate the particular one of the event notifications with a plurality of communications functions (FIG. 4, column 6 lines 29-39) referenced by the point and click of icons for File Drawers 603 Mailbox 604 Video Tape Player 605 and Blackboard 606. McNerney does not teach evaluating a defined criteria for a preferred communications function.

Swartz teaches determining a preferred one of the plurality of communications functions upon occurrence of the particular one of the event notifications based on evaluating at least one defined criteria (Fig. 7, Fig. 8) referenced by the "Follow Me" calling options to determine the criteria of a date and time for a preferred "Forward to" telephone number along with forwarding options of email to dial, and initiating the preferred one of the plurality of communications function (Fig. 7, Fig. 8) referenced by dialing of the preferred destination telephone number and forward of email to the specified server address.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the internet controlled telephone system of Swartz to the virtual meeting services computer system of McNerney and Krishnaswamy for the purpose of screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers.

Claim 37, McNevey teaches a system to receive information from a user identifying the plurality of communications functions (FIG. 1, column 4 lines 63-67, column 5 lines 1-2) referenced by the different capabilities of the conference participants and the virtual

reality conference room providing information when the function is not available to the associated participant.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's argument of the proposed amendments limitation has been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Examiner respectfully traverses the argument of the new limitation.

On review of the proposed amendments, the amendment of independent claims 1, 16, 24, 26, 35, 42, 47 with the limitation "such that the communications function occurs outside the virtual reality environment" is disclosed by McNerney et al. (Patent number 5999208). Figure 4 discloses the icon "Place a New Call" which initiates a external telephone call to the potential conferencee. Further Figure 2 discloses the external networks which are used by the Virtual Meeting Services Complex 28 including POTS, ISDN, ATM which are all external to the virtual reality environment of the VMS Server 110. In regards to the distribution of information such as the white board, the video tape player and the like occurring within the context of the virtual reality environment, the information must first be transferred from an external source into the virtual reality environment of the VMS Server. Therefore it establishes that communications functions occur outside the virtual reality environment.

In regards to the combination of McNerney in view of Swartz, the motivation to combine "for screening and rerouting calls from designated numbers" is provided by Swartz

Abstract lines 11-14.

In regards to the combination of McNerney in view of Krishnaswany, the motivation to combine "to transmit video audio and data communication of designated quality over the internet to other registered video telephony user" is provided by Krishnaswany Abstract lines 4-6.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John L. Shew whose telephone number is 571-272-3137. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on 571-272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
js



WELLINGTON CHIN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER